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Macroeconomic policy questions: high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/54/585, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 33rd and 51st meetings, on 8 November and 16 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.33 and 51).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.25 and A/C.2/54/L.75

2. At the 33rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development" (A/C.2/54/L.25), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 52/179 of 18 December 1997 and 53/173 of 15 December 1998,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/54/585 and Add.1-5.



"Taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development,

"Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51 of 29 July 1999 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions,

"1. Endorses the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development, which provides the framework and reference for the scope, agenda and form of the final event, as well as the preparatory process;

"2. Decides to convene a high-level International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in the year 2001;

"3. Reiterates that the preparatory process and the International Conference should involve the participation of all relevant stakeholders;

"4. Invites Member States to consider offering to host the International Conference on Financing for Development;

"5. Decides to establish an open-ended intergovernmental Preparatory Committee to carry out the substantive preparations for the high-level International Conference;

"6. Also decides to constitute a Bureau, with equitable representation from each region, to be presided by two Co-Chairmen;

"7. Further decides that the first organizational session of the Preparatory Committee should be held no later than early February 2000 to elect the Bureau, and, in this regard, requests the President of the General Assembly to begin consultations with Member States;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General and the Bureau to submit proposals to the Preparatory Committee at a resumed organizational session, in close consultation with Member States and all stakeholders, on the modalities of participation of the latter in the preparatory process and the International Conference, including within the context of paragraph 20 of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development and paragraphs 17 and 18 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51;

"9. Decides that the resumed organizational session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in March/April 2000 to consider the following, on the basis of chapter IV of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development and on proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General and the Bureau:

"(a) The timing, duration and format of the International Conference;

"(b) Clarification and finalization of the agenda;

"(c) Modalities of participation of institutional stakeholders, within and outside the United Nations system, notably the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and other relevant entities;

"(d) Modalities of participation of other stakeholders, notably non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

"(e) The programme of work of the Preparatory Committee;

"10. *Also decides* that the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in May 2000;

"11. *Invites* Member States to consider sending experts to participate in the resumed organizational and substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee;

"12. *Calls upon* the regional commissions, regional banks and other relevant regional entities to provide inputs for consideration by the Preparatory Committee, beginning at its resumed organizational session;

"13. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide inputs for consideration by the Preparatory Committee, beginning at its resumed organizational session;

"14. *Also requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to take into account the schedule of the Preparatory Committee and meetings of the regional commissions in assisting developing countries to prepare for substantive discussions on financing for development, including by means of regional or other meetings as well as expert group meetings;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with all Member States, to provide the Preparatory Committee and the International Conference with an adequately staffed secretariat under his authority, headed by a high-level personality, and with requisite resources, and also requests the Secretary-General to inform the Preparatory Committee at its first organizational session on the action taken in this regard;

"16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the overall preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development;

"17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled 'International Conference on Financing for Development'."

3. At the 51st meeting, on 16 December, the Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft resolution entitled "High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development" (A/C.2/54/L.75), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.25.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement regarding the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.75.

5. Also at the 51st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.75 (see para. 8).

6. At the same meeting, the representative of Guyana made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/54/SR.51).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.75, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.25 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/179 of 18 December 1997 and 53/173 of 15 December 1998,

Taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development,¹

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51 of 29 July 1999 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development,¹ as an important input for the continuation of the process, as it provides the framework and reference for the scope, agenda and form of the final event of the high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development, as well as the preparatory process;

2. *Decides* to convene in 2001 a high-level intergovernmental event of political decision makers, at least at the ministerial level, on financing for development, in the context of paragraph 20 of the report of the Working Group;

3. *Decides* that the high-level intergovernmental event in 2001 will address national, international and systemic issues relating to financing for development in a holistic manner in the context of globalization and interdependence, and, by so doing, will also address development through the perspective of finance; within this overall context, the event should also address the mobilization of financial resources for the full implementation of the outcome of major conferences and summits organized by the United Nations during the 1990s and the implementation of the Agenda for Development,² in particular with regard to poverty eradication;

4. *Reiterates*, as identified in the report of the Working Group, that both the preparatory process and the high-level intergovernmental event should involve the participation of all relevant stakeholders;

5. *Decides* to establish an intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, open to all States, to carry out the substantive preparations for the high-level intergovernmental event;

6. *Also decides* that the Preparatory Committee, at its resumed organizational session, based on the results of consultations to be held with all relevant stakeholders in a flexible manner, should consider innovative ways and mechanisms to facilitate the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders in both the preparatory process and the high-level intergovernmental event;

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/54/28).

² Resolution 51/240, annex.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and within the context of paragraphs 20 and 21 of the report of the Working Group and paragraphs 17 and 18 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51, to initiate as soon as possible preliminary consultations with all relevant stakeholders, in particular the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, on the potential modalities of their participation in both the substantive preparatory process and the high-level intergovernmental event, and also requests the Secretary-General to provide the results of these consultations to the Preparatory Committee for consideration at the first part of its organizational session;

8. *Decides* to constitute a Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, which will consist of fifteen representatives of States Members of the United Nations selected according to the principle of equitable geographical representation and will be presided over by two Co-chairmen;

9. *Also decides* that the first organizational session of the Preparatory Committee should be held as soon as possible and no later than the end of January 2000 to elect the Bureau, and in this regard requests the President of the General Assembly to begin consultations with Member States as soon as possible;

10. *Requests* the Bureau, *inter alia*, within the context of paragraphs 20 and 21 of the report of the Working Group and paragraphs 17 and 18 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51 and with the further assistance of the Secretary-General, to continue consultations with all relevant stakeholders on the modalities of their participation, including the possibility of creating a joint task force, in both the substantive preparatory process and the high-level intergovernmental event, and also requests the Bureau to submit proposals to the Preparatory Committee at its resumed organizational session on the modalities of participation of all relevant stakeholders;

11. *Decides* that the resumed organizational session of the Preparatory Committee will be held as soon as possible and no later than March 2000, and, on the basis of the report of the Working Group and the proposals on modalities to be submitted by the Bureau, and taking into account the outcome of the consultations of the Secretary-General, will consider the following questions:

(a) The form of the final event, including a possible summit, international conference, special session of the General Assembly or other high-level international intergovernmental forum on financing for development;

(b) The venue of the final event;

(c) The timing, duration and format of the final event;

(d) Clarification of the agenda;

(e) Modalities for the participation of institutional stakeholders in both the preparatory process and the high-level intergovernmental event, notably:

(i) The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, as well as, in the latter case, participation at the secretariat level and of member and observer States;

(ii) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions;

(f) Modalities for the participation of other stakeholders, notably non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in both the preparatory process and high-level intergovernmental event;

(g) The programme of work of the Preparatory Committee;

12. *Also decides* that the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee should be held in May 2000;

13. *Invites* Member States to consider sending experts to participate in the preparatory process, and encourages bilateral and multilateral donors to facilitate the participation of developing countries in both the preparatory process and the high-level intergovernmental event;

14. *Calls upon* the relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, as well as the regional development banks and all other relevant stakeholders, to provide inputs for consideration during the preparatory process;

15. *Requests* the relevant entities of the United Nations system, in accordance with their respective mandates, to take into account the schedule of the Preparatory Committee and meetings of the regional commissions, in assisting countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in preparing for the discussion on financing for development;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to take into account the schedule of the Preparatory Committee and meetings of the regional commissions, in assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in preparing for the discussion on financing for development;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with all Member States, to provide the Preparatory Committee and the high-level intergovernmental event with a secretariat commensurate with the level of the event and with adequate staff and other resources, further invites the Secretary-General in this context to explore, in consultation with all relevant institutional stakeholders, the possibility of utilizing in this secretariat staff from among these stakeholders, as appropriate, and also requests the Secretary-General to make proposals in this regard to the Preparatory Committee at its resumed organizational session in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the overall work undertaken with regard to the high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development".
